

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5 1. In a portable electronic device, a method for automatically delivering a phone call, said method comprising the steps of:

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a) monitoring for incoming phone calls by a background task interfacing directly with the telephony functionality of said device, said background task always active, said device's operating system including at least one graphical
10 user interface;

b) detecting said incoming phone call by said background task;

c) notifying said operating system of said incoming phone call by said background task; and

d) said background task notifying the user of said device of said
15 incoming phone call irrespective of the user's activity on said device.

2. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said portable electronic device is a palmtop computer system.

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20 3. The method as recited in Claim 1 further comprising the step of e) answering said incoming phone call by the user.

4. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said step c) comprises the step of said background task operating to notify the user of said device of said incoming phone call irrespective of the user's activity on said device, provided said graphical user interface is blocked.

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5. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said step c) comprises the step of said graphical user interface being updated and including an image of a cellular phone keypad and digitry, provided said graphical interface is not blocked.

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6. The method as recited in Claim 5, wherein said background task operates to notify the user of said device of said incoming phone call irrespective of the user's activity on said device.

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7. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein step d) is performed by activating a ringer on said device.

8. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein step d) is performed by activating a vibrator on said device.

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9. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein step d) is performed by activating LEDs on said device.

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10 The method as recited in Claim 3 wherein step e) is performed by pressing a button on said device.

5 11. The method as recited in Claim 3 wherein step e) is performed by pressing a button on an earbud coupled to said device.

12. The method as recited in Claim 3 wherein step e) is performed by pressing a button on a headset coupled to said device.

10 13. The method as recited in Claim 3 wherein step e) is performed by acknowledging an incoming call display on said graphical user interface.

14. A method for automatically delivering a phone call to a device, said method comprising the steps of:

15 a) monitoring for incoming phone calls by a task interfacing directly with the telephony functionality of said device, said task always remaining active irrespective of the activities of an operating system of said device;

b) receiving said incoming phone call by said task; and

20 c) said task notifying the user of said device of said incoming phone call irrespective of the user's activity on said device.

15 15. The method as recited in Claim 14 wherein said device is a palmtop computer system.

16. The method as recited in Claim 14 further comprising the step of d) answering said incoming call by the user.

5 17. The method as recited in Claim 14 wherein step c) is performed by activating a ringer on said device.

18. The method as recited in Claim 14 wherein step c) is performed by activating a vibrator on said device.

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19. The method as recited in Claim 14 wherein step c) is performed by activating LEDs on said device.

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20 20. The method as recited in Claim 16 wherein step d) is performed by pressing a button on said device.

21. The method as recited in Claim 16 wherein step d) is performed by pressing a button on an earbud coupled to said device.

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22. The method as recited in Claim 16 wherein step d) is performed by pressing a button on a headset coupled to said device.

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23. A system for automatically delivering a phone call to a device, said system comprising:

a processor coupled to a bus and a display screen coupled to said bus;
a cellular phone mechanism;

5 a memory unit coupled to said bus and having stored therein an operating system executed by said processor and a background task executed by said processor, said operating system including at least one graphical user interface; where said background task performs to the steps of

a) monitoring for incoming phone calls by a background task interfacing
10 directly with the telephony functionality of said device, said background task always active, said device's operating system including at least one graphical user interface;

b) detecting said incoming phone call by said background task;

c) notifying said operating system of said incoming phone call by said
15 background task; and

d) said background task notifying the user of said device of said incoming phone call irrespective of the user's activity on said device.

24. The system as recited in Claim 23 wherein said device is a palmtop
20 computer system.

25. The system as recited in Claim 23 wherein said listening/speaking apparatus is an earbud.

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26. The system as recited in Claim 23 wherein said listening/speaking apparatus is a headset.

5 27 The system as recited in Claim 23 wherein said background task monitors for said incoming phone calls.

28. The system as recited in Claim 27 wherein said background task receives said incoming phone calls.

29. The system as recited in Claim 28 wherein said background task notifies said graphical user interface of said incoming phone call.

30. The system as recited in Claim 29 wherein said graphical user
15 interface is blocked, whereby said background operates to notify the user of said device of said incoming phone call irrespective of the user's activity on said device.

31. The system as recited in Claim 29 whereby said graphical user
20 interface is updated, notifies the user of said device of said incoming phone call irrespective of the user's activity on said device, and includes an image of a cell phone keypad and digitry.

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